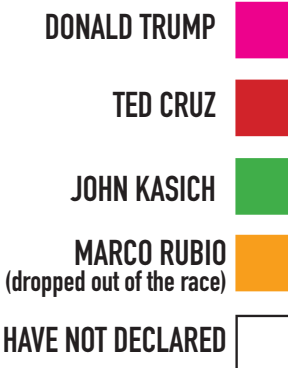


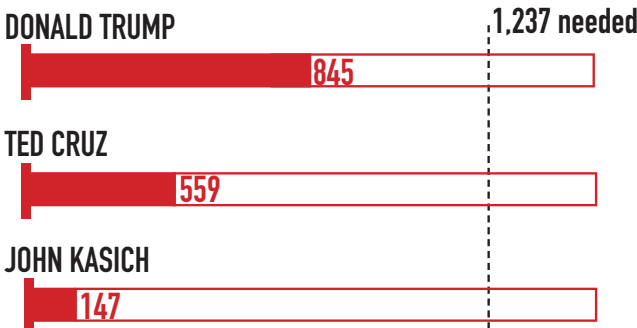


WHERE DO WE STAND?

REPUBLICANS



DELEGATE LEADERBOARD



Numbers courtesy of usatoday.com
Results courtesy of politico.com

Infographic by [Kavin Mistry](#)

'QuantumWeather' storms into SJSU

"If you got a utility company truck that's sitting idle while, you know, maybe something's going to happen, maybe it's not."

WEATHER PAGE 2

Exploring the battle of substance abuse

HEROIN PAGE 2



A horizontal banner with a light gray background and a diagonal gray and white striped border. On the left, a large, stylized 'S' contains the text '2ND ANNUAL' at the top, 'SPARTAN SHOWCASE' in the middle, and 'TODAY!' on a ribbon at the bottom. To the right of the 'S', the text 'AN EXHIBITION FEATURING A.S.-FUNDED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS' is displayed. Below this, a white rectangular box contains the text '4:00PM - 6:00PM' and 'STUDENT UNION BALLROOM'. Further down, the text 'REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!' is shown. On the far right, the circular seal of San José State University is displayed, featuring a building and the year '1897'. Below the seal, the website 'as.sjsu.edu' is written.

HEROIN >> from page 1

“Addiction is a progressive disease where life is still manageable and you can have your cake and eat it, too,” Hamilton said.

College students using heroin is a relatively new phenomenon, part of a tidal wave of cheap heroin that’s crashing onto campuses all across the country.

The heroin epidemic began about six years ago after the prescription opioid OxyContin was chemically “reformatted” to make it more “abuse proof,” according to Sam Quinones, author of “Dreamland: The True Tale of America’s Opiate Epidemic.”

The original configuration of OxyContin was FDA-approved for prescription sale in 1995 and quickly became a mainstream street drug. To reduce intravenous and intranasal abuse of the drug, it was chemically reconfigured in 2010.

Cheap heroin replaced painkillers for college students like Hamilton. Heroin proved more cost effective than prescription painkillers, both of which share similar chemical components.

More importantly, heroin had lost the stigma it had in the 1970s when it was more of an urban drug found in inner-city ghettos.

“These kids no longer saw heroin as having a stigma,” said Mark Pensler, a family counselor at the Camp Recovery Center in Scotts Valley, California. “The problem is they get hooked and then they try to stop and they can’t. It’s killing our babies.”

Health officials at the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that heroin, along with prescription opioid painkillers, kills 78 people a day, making accidental overdoses the leading cause of accidental death among young adults ages 18-25.

For college students such as Hamilton, “pill-popping” OxyContin started at 17. By the time he was 18 he was smoking heroin.

“It didn’t scare me that much when I was 17 or 18,” Hamilton said.

Hamilton used heroin in the hallways and bathrooms of De Anza College, often

stepping out of the classroom to “get well” and avoid becoming “dope sick,” a withdrawal symptom addicts face when physically dependent on the drug.

Nick Willis, a molecular biology major at UC Santa Cruz, started using drugs at 16 before getting sober in May 2015. Willis quickly latched on to heroin in high school, preferring to smoke black tar rather than mainline with a needle.

“When I was in high school there was no way in hell that I would put needles inside of me,” Willis said, who chooses not to use his real name. “Smoking did not seem as bad.”

Today black tar heroin is most popular with millennials and is becoming ubiquitous on college campuses, according to the CDC.

“Everyone I saw who was shooting heroin,” Willis said, “would end up on the street within a month or two. It’s more cost effective to shoot, but everyone has a line in the sand they won’t cross and that was mine.”

Willis, now 24, feels lucky he was able to stay in college despite smoking heroin on a daily basis while friends dropped out or got kicked out of school because of low grades.

“Drugs are everywhere at UC Santa Cruz,” Willis said. “Not so much heroin but more pills and psychedelics, which I was never into.”

Like Hamilton, Willis walked the line

The financial costs

\$20 a single dose (0.1g) of heroin

\$150 average daily spending for a habitual user

\$94 million financing for 271 community health centers across the U.S.; expanding medication-assisted treatment

\$1.1 billion Obama’s proposed budget for treatment and prevention of heroin addiction; Oct. 2016 to 2018

\$81 billion cost of substance abuse across the U.S.

Infographic by Miranda Squires

between functioning addict and full-time college student, fooling himself into believing that he could pull it off.

“At first I thought I could lead a double life,” Willis said. “I would be the goody two-shoes and hang out with pre-med academic people and then hang out with my sketchy friends downtown but more and more I was spending all my time with my sketchy friends.”

First Willis’ health suffered, and then his grades and then his parents unexpectedly visited him at UC Santa Cruz. A pale looking Willis shocked his parents when they saw the toll heroin had taken on their son.

With his parents’ support, Willis went into rehab and got clean. Today he counsels other addicts’ parents as a way of “making amends” for what he put his own parents through during his addiction.

It’s common for heroin users to start in their teens, long before they ever reach college. Teenagers with sports-related injuries or those who get their wisdom teeth removed are often prescribed painkillers.

When the painkillers run out, teenagers keep the high rolling with heroin, according to Pensler, who counsels kids as young as 14 who begin the addiction as early as in middle school.

“Schools are turning the other way and not dealing with the problem,” Pensler said. “Schools and parents need to raise awareness.”

The rapid rate that heroin eclipsed other trendy drugs such as meth and cocaine was frightening. Former SJSU student Dan Garcia said he didn’t know anyone using heroin on campus in 2008.

“There was a s--tload of cocaine,” Garcia said. “If anyone used heroin back then there would have been a stigma against them.”

Heroin’s stigma hasn’t put off millennial users, according to Dr. Anna Lembke, addiction specialist and assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University School of Medicine.

“Behind cannabis, prescription drugs are the most commonly misused drugs by adolescents and college students, mainly stimulants and opioid painkillers,” Lembke said. “Prescription drugs are also the fastest rising drugs of abuse among adolescents and young adults. Heroin use

is on the rise nationally, mainly driven by 18-24 year olds.”

Lembke also said that many universities underestimated the heroin epidemic and are now trying to catch up and spread awareness. Area colleges and universities offer a variety of counseling and support services for students such as Hamilton and Willis.

UC Santa Cruz offers extensive supportive services for students with drug and alcohol issues through its Counseling & Psychological Services, or CAPS. Students get on-campus support through CAPS 12-step program. In addition, there is a “Sober Slug” program at UC Santa Cruz for students dealing with alcohol use.

SJSU does not have a 12-step program for students, according to Liz Romero, a wellness and health promotion coordinator who deals with students coping with alcohol, drugs and stress issues. Romero said students are welcome to contact her to discuss issues of this nature.

Hamilton and Willis both realize they are two of the lucky ones. The two former addicts work hard to maintain their sobriety and both are looking forward to graduating college. Willis hopes to study medicine and become a doctor while Hamilton is studying communication studies.

For every college student like Hamilton or Willis, however, there are others who lose their struggle with addiction and wind up on the street or in the morgue. A \$100 a day heroin habit proves too much for them to handle and they drop out of college before graduation.

The students who drop out of college and continue to struggle with addiction don’t always make it to 27—the age that Hamilton’s “rock gods” all died of drug overdoses.

Looking back, Hamilton now sees those “rock gods” as a poor reason to start taking drugs. But he realizes that hindsight is 20/20.

This article was first published in South Bay Pulse.

WEATHER >> from page 1

If they can do a better job at knowing when to keep a crew and when not to, for every crew they don’t have to deploy, that’s a savings of \$400 an hour,” Pasken said. “So, just from a corporate management point of view, the big benefit is I know how to better allocate what resources I have and I can save myself some money.”

With QuantumWeather growing, Pasken said he hopes to be able to expand the amount of locations the project is implemented in and said San Jose could potentially be an option.

The project is currently used in one utility, but Pasken said the electric power research institute has given them a contract which will allow them to expand to two more.

“We’re pushing it out into a minimum of two others but there may be additional ones that, once they see how well they work in three utilities, then they will decide to join in,” Pasken said.

Pasken, who was invited by Sen Chiao, an associate professor of meteorology at SJSU, held an hour long interactive lecture with students.

Chiao, who said he and Pasken

worked together on the research topic he presented, said that Pasken and himself answering questions will allow them to figure out some answers to what’s still a developing project.

“I’m sort of like, working with him and (trying) to figure out these things,” Chiao said. “One thing I do see is that kind of application can also apply to here.”

Chiao also said that much of what Pasken lectured on is stuff that SJSU has been researching themselves, especially regarding the California ozone and EPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency) standards, which Pasken said can sometimes be in violation in major cities, such as St. Louis.

“In this coming summer, from May until August we are going to ... launch a balloon from Bodega Bay every day basically measuring the ozone influx to California,” Chiao said. “We want to measure that in terms of the project, basically trying to help the state redefine the regulation of policies.”

-Dr. Robert Pasken

“...the big benefit is I know how to better allocate what sources I have and I can save myself some money.”

Follow Nick on Twitter @NickVanExelent



AS ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Lá Chui Dăm Lẽ

A TEARFUL LETTER

April 24th at 3PM

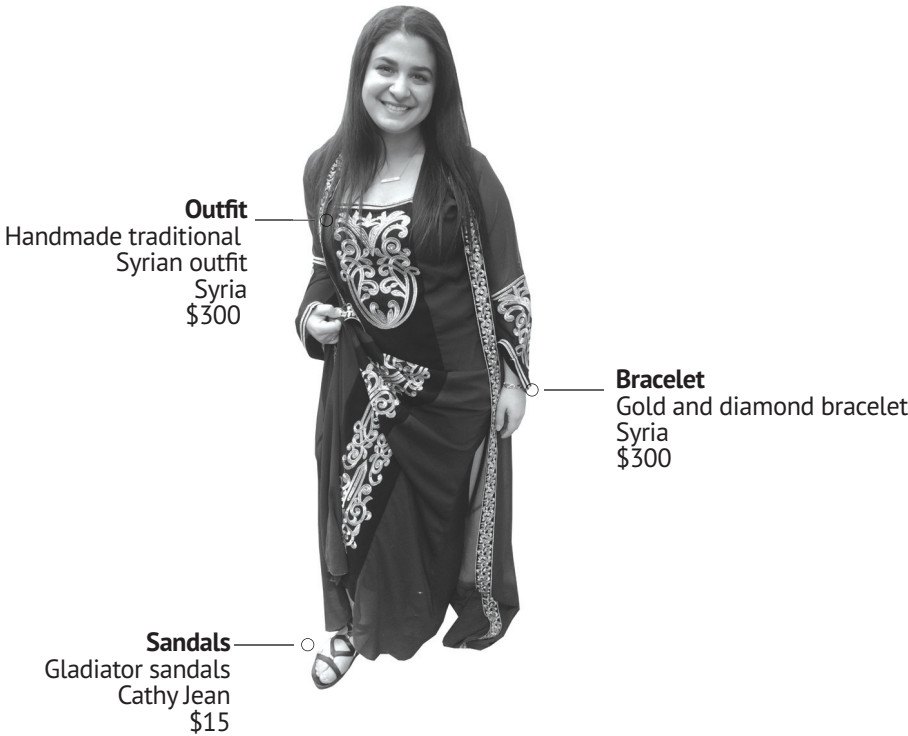
Morris Dailey Auditorium

GENERAL ADMISSION \$10 DOOR \$15 STUDENT \$5

WARDROBE WEDNESDAY

Spring Pop

Jana Kadah, freshman political science major



Outfit

Handmade traditional Syrian outfit
Syria
\$300

Bracelet

Gold and diamond bracelet
Syria
\$300

Sandals

Gladiator sandals
Cathy Jean
\$15

"I wore this to honor the Syrian culture and to show that we are not terrorists."

Fashionable on a budget

Takia Tinney, junior kinesiology major



Crown

Gold flower crown
Claire's
\$15

Dress

Striped blue dress
Ross
\$15

Cardigan

Black cardigan
Ross
\$7

Backpack

Black and turquoise backpack
Northface
\$130

Flats

Silver flats
Ross
\$20

"It was comfortable and I knew it was going to be hot today."

Fancy and Cultural

Noor Bondogji, junior RTVF major



Outfit

Handmade traditional Syrian outfit
Syria
\$200

Head Scarf

Blue and yellow scarf
Forever 21
\$10

Bag

Black purse
Guess
\$30

Sandals

Gladiator sandals
Michael Kors
\$20

"I'm Syrian, I wanted to show the good part of Syria and the culture."

Infographic by Adolfo Oseguera
Information compiled by Daphne Morales

Spring concert showcases talent

By James Kim
Staff writer

The School of Music and Dance performed a concert on Sunday in honor of Gary Masters, who retired from SJSU last year after 14 years as professor and artistic director of the dance theater.

All 20 members of the University Dance Theater Company were present at the event.

The performance was a first in collaboration with digital media and jazz students and faculty at the university who, between those two classes, created all the content for the performance of "8:12."

Frankie Rivera, a junior in the dance school, said of the dance program so far, "They're teaching (you) how to function, how to shift your weight, how to be a better person overall."

Rivera provided commentary for the performance of "The Rite of Being Left," choreographed by Holly Johnston.

"The week (Johnston) was here we had a life-changing moment about how we work as a company... she took us all and tore us apart and built us back together," Rivera said. "Initially, that piece (Rite of Being Left) started backwards... it started with a duet. Then one day, she said, 'Flip it.' Conceptually, that piece made more sense; conceptually, that piece is about moments in your life when you have lost somebody, and it's about... living that moment of being left."

Heather Cooper, who is the Dance Program Coordinator at SJSU and choreographer of "Flowering Void," said the performances are the result of multiple-hour days of practice on behalf of the dance students.

She also spoke to the performance of "Flowering Void" in Arizona at the American College Dance Association West Conference earlier this semester. According to Rivera, the dance is about

a growing, expansive nothingness that takes control over peoples' lives until they have no control.

Cooper mentioned collaborating with Raphael Boumaila, the new Artistic Director of the University Dance Theater.

Boumaila said the students really look like natural artists.

"They understand that it's not about putting a show together and just doing it, they have certain ideas, they have a direction, they have something to reach for... even though it seems like the show is all put together, they still are working to become better," Boumaila said.

Cooper commented on the new director, both as a co-worker and collaborator in choreographing "Flowering Void." "That's part of the new exciting thing," Cooper said. "We're raising the focus level, the standard, the quality and the professionalism by bringing someone (Boumaila) that's had that extensive of a performing career."

Boumaila was formerly a professional dancer with the Limon Dance Company. He danced for 25 years with the company before becoming the SJSU program's director this year, following Gary Masters, who also had experience with Limon. He said the students are being trained as if they were part of a professional dance company.

The dance theater program continues its community outreach with local high schools, as well as exchanges with other colleges and letting people know about SJSU dance.

The next performance hosted by the University Dance Theater, featuring first year dance majors, will be on Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Dance Theater (SPX 216).

Follow James on Twitter
@jdkim38

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June 6 – August 12
(ten-week)

Session 2
June 6 – July 8
(five-week)

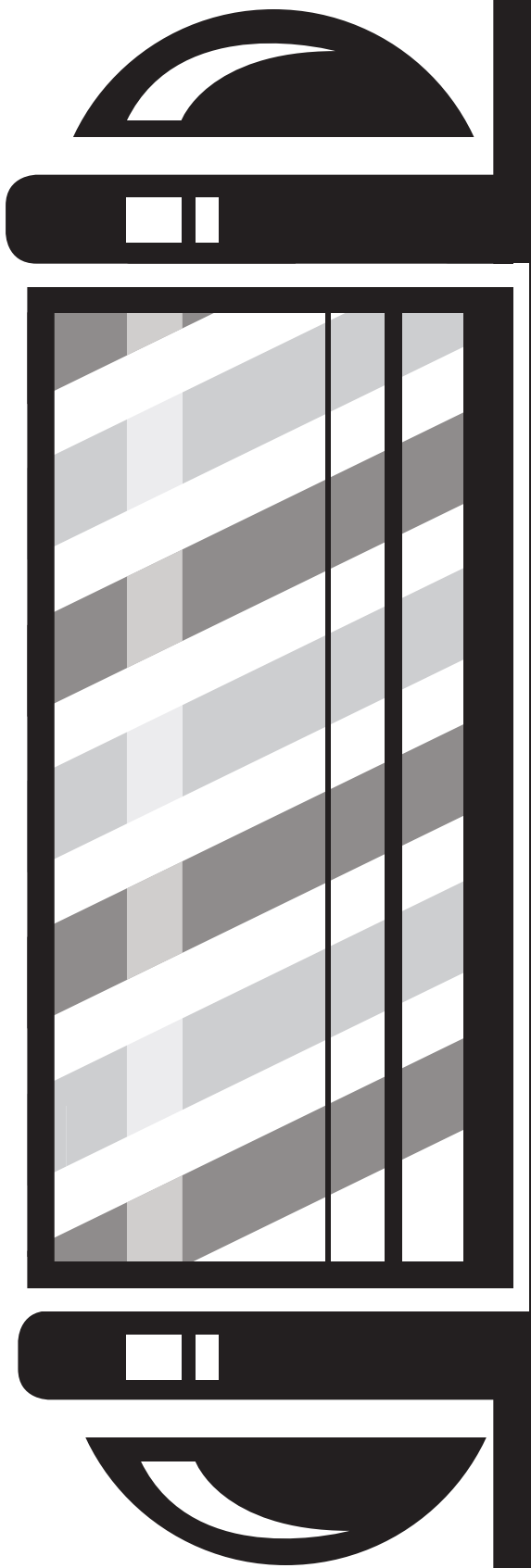
Session 3
July 11 – August 12
(ten-week)

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REVIEW



‘Barber Shop: The Next Cut’

Great clips brings good comedy

By Nick Avila
Staff writer

Although 12 years is a long time between trips to the barbershop, the wait was worth it for “Barbershop: The Next Cut.” While the second part of the franchise, “Barbershop: Back in Business” was absolutely pitiful, the third film brought back the authenticity I enjoyed in the original “Barbershop.”

O’Shea Jackson, also known as Ice Cube, plays Calvin Jr., the owner of the South Side Chicago barbershop where most of the film takes place.

While surrounded by gang violence and struggling businesses, Calvin battles with decisions that could make or break both his shop and friendships.

Calvin also has to look out for his son, Jalen (played by Michael Rainey Jr.), who’s now a teenager and is dealing with the peer pressure that comes with living in a rough neighborhood.

As the crime and brutality of Chicago is emblazoned in the film, Calvin and his crew have to band together and try to do their part to save the neighborhood.

Eddie, played by Cedric the Entertainer, does his best to keep the mood of the film light-hearted while the cast discusses everything under the sun.

Topics in the barbershop range from pop culture to racial injustices to the seriousness of violence in Chicago, which is what the film opens with.

While Cedric the Entertainer

kept me laughing, it was a new character who absolutely stole the show. Lamorne Morris, who played Jerrod in the film, shined the brightest as the nerdy new addition to the barbershop.

Jerrod does his best to fit in with an ensemble of barbers, who all seem to belong in the shop, while also giving you an idea of what’s going through his head throughout the film. He never seems to keep a thought to himself.

The authentic feel is there for some of the movie, but there are also plenty of scenes where many of the rappers-turned-actors can’t quite pull off the role they’re playing.

This is obvious in any scene Michael Ray Nguyen-Stevenson, better known as Tyga, is present in. His laughable portrayal of a gang member ruined any attempt at seriousness the film director, Malcolm D. Lee, may have had.

Another new character in the film’s franchise is Lonnie Rashid Lynn, aka Common, who plays Calvin’s best friend Rashad. While much of Common’s lines seem forced, there’s an incredibly funny scene where he has a back-and-forth with himself in his car, which was one of the highlights of the film.

Aside from some casting issues, Lee definitely took the best from the original film and made it his own. The plot didn’t get very complicated and there weren’t many surprises; the story just carried

along. The transitions were smooth and the story was, for the most part, believable.

Some cameos didn’t fit all that well, but the reprise of original characters blended with the addition of new roles kept me entertained. The music in the film was a blend of hip hop, which is expected with the amount of cast that got their claim to fame through music and emotional string-heavy sounds. It didn’t hit the mark for me.

Another point the film missed was the lack of women’s involvement. The once all-men barbershop joined together with a hair salon, but aside from an attempt at adultery and a couple of passionate speeches, there is little attention paid to the female cast.

The film, however, did a good job of bringing up serious issues. But just as quickly as they debated race or poverty, they jumped away from it by a comedic one-liner; sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn’t.

“Barbershop: The Next Cut” was what I expected regarding the topics and main focus, but it was put together a lot better than I ever would have imagined.



Follow Nick on Twitter
@NickVanExelent

Illustration by Kevin Mistry

Classifieds

Sudoku Puzzle

2				6				
4	8	3	2	1			5	6
7					5	2		8
1			6	5		8	3	9
	2			8			6	
3	6	8		7	4			1
8		1	7					2
9	7			4	1	6	8	3
				2				5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous Solutions

5	9	8	7	6	3	1	2	4
7	1	4	9	2	8	3	5	6
3	6	2	5	1	4	9	7	8
2	5	3	4	9	7	8	6	1
8	4	9	6	5	1	2	3	7
6	7	1	8	3	2	5	4	9
1	2	7	3	4	9	6	8	5
9	8	5	2	7	6	4	1	3
4	3	6	1	8	5	7	9	2

Apr 19th

1	O	R	A	T	E	6	N	I	N	E	S	11	U	K	E			
14	H	E	L	I	X	18	A	D	O	P	T	16	N	E	O			
17	O	V	E	R	A	N	D	O	V	E	R	19	D	E	C			
20	E	M	A	I	L	21	E	U	22	G	E	N	E					
23	S	P	U	D	26	E	R	I	K	27	M	O	R	A	N			
29	E	O	N		30	Z	A	G	31	A	C	O	N	E				
32	C	U	D		34	T	E	L	36	P	H	O	T	O				
38	T	R	E	M	O	L	O	40	P	A	R	S	O	N	42	S		
43	R	E	P	L	I	C	A	T	E	44	K	E	A					
46	A	G	H	A	48	A	N	A	49	E	E	N						
50	L	O	A	N	51	S	L	O	53	O	T	54	O	D	D	S		
56	C	A	N	T	L	E	57	O	N	E	O	N	58	E				
60	O	L	D		61	O	V	E	R	A	C	H	I	63	E	64	V	E
65	T	I	E		67	G	E	N	I	I	68	M	O	R	A	L		
69	T	E	D		70	S	N	E	E	R	71	S	N	A	R	L		

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21							22			
			23								24			
25	26	27					28	29						
30						31	32					33	34	35
36				37	38						39			
40				41							42			
			43							44	45			
46	47	48					49	50						
51					52	53						54	55	56
57					58						59			
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

ACROSS

- 1 Spanish dwelling
- 5 myrtle
- 10 Ship's post
- 14 Unknown quote source, for short
- 15 Edmonton pro
- 16 Asian housemaid
- 17 Thirty-two-card game
- 18 Lasting impressions
- 19 "Batman" cartoonist Bob
- 20 Some quick breakfast orders
- 23 Capital of Rhone
- 24 Regular writing
- 25 Carpenters' grooves
- 28 Helen of
- 30 "... and make it fast!"
- 31 Expressed awe
- 33 Blooming loop
- 36 It's indexed?
- 40 Sailor's "yes"
- 41 Attempts at waist removal?
- 42 Perfect, as one's skills
- 43 What wavy lines in comics represent
- 44 Keeps smiling
- 46 Hindu sage
- 49 Shish
- 51 Bogus monetary unit

DOWN

- 1 Playbill listing
- 2 Egyptian life symbol
- 3 Emulate eagles
- 4 Range rover
- 5 Earth and beyond
- 6 Poisonous protein in castor beans
- 7 Thicke and Rickman
- 8 South American nation
- 9 Prefix for "while"
- 10 Place to buy pies
- 11 Insect's adult stage
- 12 Tart flavors
- 13 The ones here
- 21 Seeing dog
- 22 Lyrical poem
- 25 Computer input
- 26 Like an uncleaned hearth

- 27 It might begin "Bet you can't!"
- 28 Not that
- 29 Make go "vroom"
- 31 Legal hearing
- 32 Frequently, to Shakespeare
- 33 "Land of a million elephants"
- 34 Fish-eating bird
- 35 "Beware the ___ of March"
- 37 Murphy of Hollywood
- 38 Condensed lifetime account
- 39 More plump
- 43 Common breakfast dish
- 44 Lowers in esteem
- 45 Damage, as a surface
- 46 "77 Sunset ___"
- 47 Question of possession
- 48 Hard seed coverings
- 49 Anne or Calvin of fashion
- 50 Escape detection
- 52 Per expenses
- 53 Earthenware jar
- 54 Run at the light
- 55 Trimmed of fat
- 56 Attain, as a job

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CELEBRATING 4/20

The meaning behind 4/20 and all its greatness

By Justin Tonel
Staff writer

The greatest non-federally recognized holiday, 4/20, widely known as April 20, celebrates the nonsensical appreciation of smoking marijuana, cannabis, reefer, ganja, pot, pakalolo or simply weed. Whichever strikes your fancy. The celebration has become synonymous with smoking in counter-culture tradition. Often confused with obscure meanings, though not true, 420 has been rumored to be the police code for “smoking in progress,” the amount of active chemicals in marijuana, time signatures in songs, Bob Marley’s death, the list goes on. Uttered during Grateful Dead concerts, picked up during the decline of hippie ’70s era in the Haight District of S.F. and popularized by High Times magazine, the term 420 and its origins is shrouded in myth and smoky haze. It was not until High Times magazine writer Steve Bloom published his findings of a Grateful Dead flyer in 1990 in Oakland, advertising a smokeout. The flyer said, “We are going to meet at 4:20 on 4/20 for 420-ing in Marin County at the Bolinas Ridge sunset spot on Mt. Tamalpais.” It also came with a complete backstory stating, “420 started somewhere in San Rafael, California in the late



’70s. It started as the police code for Marijuana Smoking in Progress. After local heads heard of the police call, they started using the expression 420 when referring to herb - Let’s Go 420, dude!” which Steve Bloom published in May 1991 in High Times magazine. The flyer was only partially right. 420 had nothing to do with San Rafael’s police code; however the term 420 did originate in San Rafael with a group of five high school friends. Fast-forward to 2015. The five high school friends dubbed “The Waldos” published how they coined the term “420” and why. According to 420waldos, the group of five friends were given a treasure map to a patch of weed along the coast of Point Reyes Peninsula. The map came into Steve Waldo’s possession, through an acquaintance, whose older brother was in the U.S. Coast Guard and growing cannabis. The Coast Guardsmen had grown paranoid and were willing to let people harvest the crop. The Waldos then met at 4:20 p.m. after practice at the front of a statue on the San Rafael High campus. They smoked and went in search of the reclusive crop. As their slang became more and more popularized throughout the decades, 420 became solidified as slang for smoking weed. As for the date, High Times magazine helped in bringing April 20 as the date for hemp conventions and festivals.

So is 4/20 necessary? The answer is probably no, but with over 30 million Americans who have stated they have smoked marijuana this past year alone, according to PopSci, the number of people who smoke is growing. According to a recent survey published in March by the Associated Press and the University of Chicago, an overwhelming 61 percent of Americans support the legalization of marijuana. On 4/20 last year, it was estimated 10,000 people gathered at Hippie Hill in San Francisco’s Golden Gate park to celebrate, according to a report from the police of San Francisco. The number is expected to increase by the thousands to an estimated 15,000 for 2016’s celebration, according to the City of San Francisco. “I think it’s a monumental day that pushes political agenda,” said Michael Chin, senior, advertising major, who plans to attend the annual 4/20 celebration. “It’s like celebrating Gay Pride Day. It’s special to me because I’m spiritually a rasta. I definitely try to smoke as much as I can. Even my work gave me the day off.” Despite what you may feel about smoking or marijuana, the numbers paint a changing temperament in American society. So blaze it, smoke it and stuff your faces, 4/20 is here. Stay calm and smoke along.

Follow Justin on Twitter
@Justin_Tonel

Make it legal now

By Yale Wyatt
Staff writer

You were probably expecting this sort of article today. I’m going to start this with a disclaimer. No, I’m not a stoner. I don’t even smoke weed. I wouldn’t even recommend someone to smoke. Yet, I strongly support the legalization of marijuana. We’re in the “Wild West” and most of us here are cool with it. According to CBS News, California is ranked no. 10 among all states for highest recreational marijuana use, with nearly 13 percent of its population admitting to using the drug. During the ballot on Nov. 8, California voters will decide whether or not marijuana will finally be legalized for usage and growing rights. With the momentum growing from other legal states like Oregon, Colorado and Alaska, it’s heavily projected that the bill to legalize

the drug in California will pass. This is a great step forward not just for marijuana enthusiasts but California as a whole. The most common and convincing argument for legalizing marijuana is the major economic boost it can bring the state. Think of all the recreational users in California right now, those who did not obtain marijuana from the pretext of medicinal use (you’re on a college campus right now, so it shouldn’t be too hard). According to the Think tank Cato Institution in a study from 2010, if marijuana was legalized nationwide, it would generate nearly \$9 billion in federal and state tax revenue annually (again, this was in 2010 when it was less decriminalized and still illegal in all states, so the numbers would be higher). Of course, you might say, “Who cares if it generates that kind of money. It’s a harmful drug and legalizing it will have dire implications for our society!” And you’d be half right. With any sort of drug, there will always be some risks based on dosage, usage and situational problems. The thing is, with marijuana, scientists have yet to find any major harmful side effects, even in respiratory health. The major issue marijuana enthusiasts would have is to watch out for a would-be addiction. Marijuana is mildly addictive (about 10 percent of recreational



users have a dependency), but this pales in comparison to alcohol addiction rates (about 30 percent of Americans suffer addiction). Legalization of marijuana would (obviously) lower drug-related crime offenses. Decriminalization generally lessens the penalties of those caught with possession, but that doesn’t mean it’s necessary fair across the board. Penalties are generally harsher for younger minorities in California, which is obviously a double standard. Despite it being “socially acceptable” (this article itself is evidence of that), people still face penalty and punishment from the law. Be honest and ask yourself: would you feel comfortable with somebody going to prison without the intent to sell? The public perception of marijuana has changed drastically in the past decade, and we’re now aware of the benefits it can provide us. Even if you don’t smoke yourself, you should vote to legalize on Nov. 8.

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SOFTBALL

ABACHERLI



SLASHING *for the* SPARTANS

By Nick Avila
Staff writer

The leadoff spot in softball is one of the most important roles a player can have in the lineup. They're the first batter up and their start, whether good or bad, can boost or hinder the rest of the game for their team.

The Spartans couldn't have asked for much more from their leadoff hitter, Brittany Abacherli.

"Leadoff is key," said Taylor Purdy, her teammate and senior second baseman. "She starts the game, and when she starts it, we all get momentum and just follow off of her."

Abacherli, a junior broadcast journalism major, has batted .339 for the year and is tied for second on the team with 43 hits. While a solid batting average and hits are expected from a team's leadoff, Abacherli also boasts the third best RBI total in the Mountain West Conference, with 39. Her play at the plate has been something her teammate and starting pitcher Colette Riggs, said has been key to their team's play.

"She's been doing really well," Riggs said. "She's been getting a lot of key big hits when we need them, and in the outfield she's been getting a lot of good catches and just kind of holding us together and getting us into the game."

Last season, however, was a different story for Abacherli. When she transferred to SJSU from the University of Las Vegas, Nevada, She wasn't a consistent player in the team's lineup and struggled with her batting. She said that she tried multiple times to adjust, but the process was difficult. In the offseason, though, Abacherli said she got back to what worked for her prior to the down season.

"I just said 'you know, I'm going to go back to doing my old stuff, played over summer and came out ready to go,'" Abacherli said.

After taking mostly a defensive specialty role on the team in her first season, she's now become a leader of the 19-21 Spartans and says that going to SJSU was one of the best choices she has ever made.

Abacherli got into playing softball at a young age and says her father, who played baseball and went on to play in slow-pitch softball leagues, played an intricate part in her picking up the sport.

"My dad put me in softball and I ended up to be really good at it when I was young, so I just kept on playing," Abacherli said. "I've been playing almost every single weekend since the age of eight."

Abacherli, who's started 39 of the team's 40 games so far this season, doesn't just hold her own in the batter's box either. She's made some almost impossible catches while playing centerfield, including one early in the year against Baylor which sent her crashing into the outfield wall.

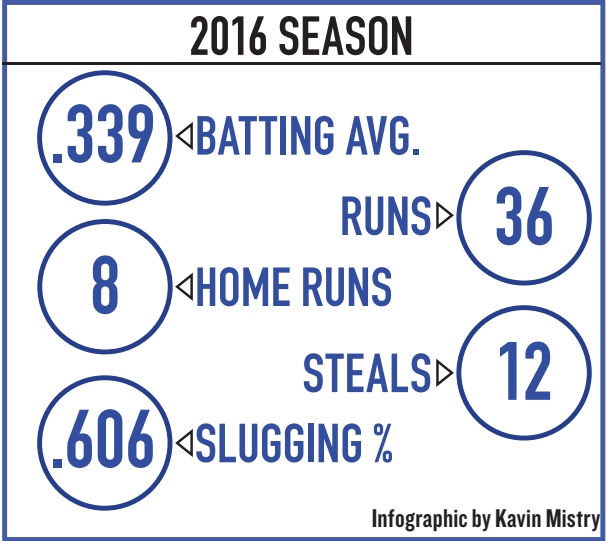
Her abilities and overall play this year has been something that's impressed her head coach, Peter Turner.

"She's done an excellent job and her improvement from when we got her at the midterm last year to here... we couldn't be happier," Turner said. "She's not only hitting the ball well, but you see her track down balls in the outfield ... she's really becoming a five-tool player for us."

While Abacherli hopes her team can continue winning, and that she can potentially become an All-American, her goals don't stop on the field. She hopes that once she's done playing she can work for Fox Sports and go to medical school; both are dreams she said she's had since she was a kid.

"I only live once," Abacherli said. "I'm just going to see where life takes me and live life in the moment."

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Infographic by Kevin Mistry



Kavin Mistry | Spartan Daily

Abacherli leads the Spartans in runs scored, home runs, walks and RBI's this season.



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Abacherli comes in to score a run against the San Diego State Aztecs on Friday at SJSU field.



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